Siphoning of fuel

1322. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the fuel supplies meant for army units in Leh are being siphoned off on the way to the destination;

(b) whether it is a fact that Bulk Petroleum Lorries (BPL) carrying fuel from the Indian Oil Corporation's (IOC) main depot in Ambala have been found pilfered by the time they reach the army's depot in Leh; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No case of siphoning off of fuel supplies meant for Army units in Leh have been reported.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Troops pull out from J&K

1323. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more troops are pulling out of Jammu and Kashmir in keeping with the Prime Minister's statement; and

(b) whether Government are confident that Pakistan aided and trained terrorist will not escalate cross border terrorism?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The security situation is dynamic and is reviewed periodically. No compromise will be made on security related matters and plans are in place to cater for all possible operational contingencies.

Shortage of officers in Indian Army

1324. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in 1992 there was shortage of 8,000 officers in Indian Army and presently the shortage has gone up to 13,000 although

an assurance was given to Estimates Committee in 1992 that the shortage of 8,000 officers would be made up very soon;

(b) what are the reasons for increase in shortage by another 5,000 officers since 1992 and when it would be wiped out and how; and

(c) whether there is any time-frame for this?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Vacancies in the Army have existed since 1950. The deficiency in officers cadre was 10570 in the year 1992. At present there is a shortage of 11709 officers. The shortage is in the rank of Major and below.

(b) The increase in shortage is due to raising of new units to fulfill operational requirements. The risk factor involved in soldiering and increased availability of attractive alternative employment opportunities, add to the shortage. Sustained efforts, like periodic Image Projection Campaigns and seminars and lectures in schools and colleges, are made to motivate the youth to join the Army.

(c) Shortage of officers has been existent in the Army in varying degrees since 1950. It is not feasible to specify any time frame for liquidation of the shortage.

Schemes for welfare of Ex-Servicemén

1325. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ex-servicemen as on date in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of schemes being implemented for the welfare, rehabilitation and resettlement of ex-servicemen;

(c) the number of ex-servicemen benefited thereby, State-wise;

(d) whether there is any proposal to increase the amount for rehabilitation of ex-servicemen; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?